

Monarch Joint Venture (MJV) Regional Monitoring Coordinator
Time frame: Starts January 2018 for one year (start date is flexible)
Salary: \$41,000 with benefits

Full-time with benefits

Employed by University of Minnesota, but location TBD based on successful candidate (office space will likely be made available through partner organizations depending on location)

Position Summary:

The MJV Regional Monitoring Coordinator is an exciting position within a collaborative conservation organization, the Monarch Joint Venture. The Regional Monitoring Coordinator will oversee the implementation of a national monitoring program for monarch butterflies and their habitats into a specific region of the US (to be determined according to the candidate's location and availability of strategic partnerships). The monitoring program was designed by the Monarch Science Conservation Partnership (MCSP), and includes surveys of adult and immature monarchs, milkweed and nectar plant resources. The Regional Monitoring Coordinator will engage a broad array of partners including natural resource managers, biologists, academics, and volunteers across their region to implement monarch and habitat monitoring. This person will conduct outreach to find partners and volunteers, obtain access and permissions to collect data for various locations, and provide training and support to monitoring teams. On a state or regional level, this position will work to inform strategies for expanding the implementation of the monitoring strategy nationally, and eventually internationally.

This position requires a sound foundation in ecology and excellent communication skills to engage a diversity of stakeholders, including private citizens. An ideal candidate will have experience in ecological monitoring, building partnerships across agencies, and engaging participants in citizen science programs. A background in monarch or other invertebrate conservation would be beneficial. There will be extensive contact with others within and outside the organization and partnership, in person, by telephone, and through email. The work requires initiative, flexibility, and attention to detail. It is essential that the person in this position is able to prioritize tasks and work in a team environment. The MJV Science Coordinator will oversee position activities and the successful candidate will report to the MJV Coordinator.

Primary Duties:

Communication and Training: 50%

- Organize and instruct training workshops on the monitoring program
- Provide support to recruited participants (i.e. answer questions about protocols, data, timing of monitoring, etc.)
- Gain access and permissions to conduct monitoring on private and public lands
- Contribute to the development of outreach and training materials, including online, printed, and in-person sessions for teaching the program to various audiences.
- Communicate with conservation partner entities to align with other regional monitoring objectives and existing programs or volunteer networks
- Give presentations on regional approach to monitoring strategy implementation, including regional objectives and lessons learned.
- Establish and maintain effective communication with regional partners regarding the status of the program. Disseminate technical information to partners, other agencies and organizations, and the general public.
- Provide technical assistance to agencies and organizations concerning the program.
- Maintain frequent contact with partners in a professional manner.
- Train and oversee undergraduate students or technicians working on the project.

Coordination and Facilitation: 30%

- Coordinate outreach activities (i.e. email, phone, flyers, meetings/conferences) to enlist additional partner entities and volunteers throughout the region.
- Coordinate outreach to engage participants in obtaining monitoring site access (i.e. seeking permits for access to privately owned sites)
- Work throughout the region to create centralized, long-term “hubs” where volunteers will be trained and recruited to participate in the program. This involves building relationships with staff or volunteers, collecting their feedback, and continuing to provide updated information they need to successfully recruit new and retain existing volunteers.
- Provide guidance for developing monitoring coordination networks in other regions.
- Oversee activities of regionally deployed biotechnicians or undergraduate students.

Program Development: 10%

- Provide feedback and recommend suggestions for improving the monitoring program, including sampling and protocol design. Develop and assess program objectives that will engage a broad spectrum of participants (agency staff, conservation professionals, citizen scientists, etc.)
- Improve training materials or develop regionally tailored resources for the project to be made available for expanded use by regional hubs and/or the national strategy.

Administrative Duties: 10%

- Tracking expenditures for grant reporting
- Preparing reports for MJV leadership and funders

Qualifications Summary

The ideal candidate will be a conservation professional with citizen science research and public outreach experience. Relevant experience working successfully with diverse partners and/or on landscape-scale monitoring initiatives regarding insects or pollinators is strongly preferred.

Required Qualifications:

- Undergraduate degree or higher from an accredited college or university in biology, conservation biology, natural resource management, or related disciplines
- Demonstrated communication skills, including oral presentation, writing, and ability to use appropriate communication technologies with a variety of audiences.
- Self-motivated with demonstrated ability to work independently under general guidance from and regular communication with the MJV Coordinator and other staff
- Demonstrated ability to keep track of multiple projects with varying deadlines
- Ability to work in organizational partnerships in a collaborative and advisory capacity
- Willingness to travel frequently throughout the region, to the home office in Minnesota periodically, with occasional additional national meetings outside the region

Preferred Qualifications:

- Knowledge of insect, monarch, or pollinator biology/ecology
- Experience working in GIS and with data collection applications
- Experience working on conservation or resource management issues in an academic, government, or NGO position
- Experience collecting ecological monitoring data
- Experience training citizen scientists or staff in insect or habitat monitoring techniques

Please share your interest with Cora Preston via email (mjv@umn.edu). Cora will send you a link to the application on the University of Minnesota website when it becomes available.